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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/864,998	05/24/2001	Peter Laros	99999-20098	2640

7590 01/06/2003

PATENT DOCKET CLERK  
JENNER & BLOCK  
ONE IBM PLAZA  
CHICAGO, IL 60611

EXAMINER

VU, STEPHEN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**09/864,998**

Applicant(s)

**Laros**

Examiner

**Stephen Vu**

Art Unit

**3636**



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 26, 2002
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 26-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 3636

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restriction*

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in Paper No. 3 is acknowledged.

### *Specification*

2. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout and content for patent applications. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

### Arrangement of the Specification

The following order or arrangement is preferred in framing the specification and, except for the reference to the drawings, each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underling or bold type, as section headings. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) Title of the Invention.
- (b) Cross-Reference to Related Applications.
- © Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research or Development.

Art Unit: 3636

- (d) Reference to a "Sequence Listing," a table, or a computer program listing appendix submitted on compact disc (see 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5)).
- (e) Background of the Invention.
  - 1. Field of the Invention.
  - 2. Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) Brief Summary of the Invention.
- (g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s).
- (h) Detailed Description of the Invention.
- (I) Claim or Claims (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) Abstract of the Disclosure (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) Drawings.
- (l) Sequence Listing, if on paper (see 37 CFR 1.821-1.825).

Please be advised the headings are missing for their respective paragraphs, i.e. Brief Summary of the Invention, Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s), Detailed Description of the Invention, etc.

Art Unit: 3636

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. Claims 5-8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. Claims 5-6 recite the limitation "the same length" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. With claim 7, line 2, the phrase "relative to horizontal" appears to be unclear. With claim 12, line 2, the phrase "each relative to horizontal" appears to be unclear.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-7,9,11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith'514.

Smith'514 shows a furniture element comprising a seat portion, a back portion having a pair of back panels (40) connected to each other at a first angle along a center line (42), the seat portion has a pair of seat panels (41) connected to each other at the first angle along a center line,

Art Unit: 3636

and the back portion and seat portion are connected to each other at a second angle along a base line.

With claim 2, the back panels and seat panels are connected to each other along the center lines.

With claim 3, the first angle is a right angle.

With claim 4, the back panels and the seat panels are integrally connected to each other.

With claim 5, the back panels have the same length.

With claim 6, the seat panels have the same length.

With claim 7, the base line of the seat portion and the base line of the back portion are sloped at a third angle relative at a common resting point.

With claim 9, the back portion is longer than the seat portion.

With claim 11, the center line sections and base line sections form an inverted four-sided pyramid.

With claim 16, the back panels form a continuous surface and the seat panels form a continuous surface.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

Art Unit: 3636

such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

9. Claims 8,10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith'514.

Smith'514 discloses the claimed invention except for the third angle to be 45 degrees. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to specify the third angle to be 45 degrees, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105, USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

With regards to claim 10, Smith'514 discloses the claimed invention except for the back portion to be twice the length of the seat portion. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to design the back portion to be twice the length of the seat portion, since such a



Art Unit: 3636

modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105, USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

With claim 12, Smith'514 discloses the claimed invention except for the center line sections and base line sections at the resting point to slope at 45 degrees. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to specify the center line sections and base line sections at the resting point to slope at 45 degrees, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105, USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

10. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith'514 in view of Baus et al.

Smith'514 discloses the claimed invention except for a height-adjustable head support element placed on the back portion. Baus et al teach a height-adjustable head support element (134) placed on the back portion of the wedge. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a height-adjustable head support element placed on the back portion of Smith'514's furniture element, in order to provide adjustable support for the user's head.

11. Claims 17-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith'514 in view of Ugalde.

Art Unit: 3636

Smith'514 discloses the claimed invention except for the furniture element to include a foot support. Ugalde teaches an adjustable footrest comprising a pair of base members (16b) and support members (18b). The footrest has a longitudinal rib. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a footrest for Smith'514's furniture element as taught by Ugalde. This modification would provide a footrest to allow the user to comfortably support one's feet.

### *Conclusion*

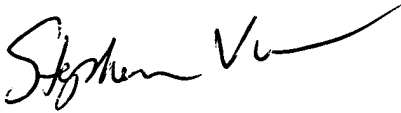
12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Straub et al, Eary, Sr., Smith, Straub et al, Karash, Reavis, and Jacobson et al are cited as showing similar types of furniture element.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen A Vu whose telephone number is 703-308-1378. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

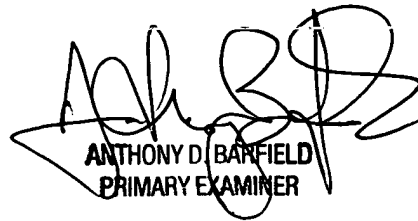
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter M Cuomo can be reached on 703-308-0827. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3636

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.



Stephen Vu  
Patent Examiner  
December 27, 2002



ANTHONY D. BARFIELD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER